

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1 – 11 (canceled).

12. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule ~~of claim 10~~ comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a persephin polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:199 or SEQ ID NO:201 and wherein said persephin polypeptide promotes survival of mesencephalic neuronal cells.

13 - 27 (canceled).

28. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule ~~of claim 10~~ comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a persephin polypeptide, wherein the persephin polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:223, and wherein the persephin polypeptide promotes survival of mesencephalic neuronal cells.

29. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule ~~of claim 10~~ comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a persephin polypeptide, wherein the persephin polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:221, and wherein the persephin polypeptide promotes survival of mesencephalic neuronal cells.

30 – 41 (canceled).

42. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence fully complementary to the nucleotide sequence of claim 12.

43 – 45 (canceled).

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